



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

**TODD P. GRAVES**

---

Contact Don Ledford, Public Affairs • (816) 426-4220 • 400 East Ninth Street, Room 5510 • Kansas City, MO 64106

[www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow)

---

**MARCH 4, 2004**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **GRANDVIEW WOMAN PLEADS GUILTY TO IDENTITY THEFT**

**KANSAS CITY, Mo.** – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Grandview, Mo., woman pleaded guilty in federal court today to identity theft.

**Andrea Ross**, 24, Grandview, Mo., pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Fernando J. Gaitan, Jr., this morning to three counts of a federal indictment charging fraudulent use of a Social Security number, identity theft and credit card fraud.

Graves explained that **Ross** used another person's name and Social Security number to obtain a credit card, which she used to make over \$5,000 in purchases. **Ross** admitted that she used a Social Security number that had not been assigned to her, in order to obtain an American Express Card on Oct. 15, 1999. She also admitted that she used a Social Security number belonging to another person on Aug. 16, 2000, with the intent to commit an unlawful activity, that being unauthorized use of an American Express Card. Finally, **Ross** admitted that she used an American Express Card issued in another person's name between Aug. 16, 2000 and Feb. 7, 2001, in order to make purchases.

**Ross** was originally charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Kansas City on Oct. 7, 2003.

Under federal statutes, Graves explained, **Ross** may be subject to a maximum sentence of up to 35 years in federal prison without parole, plus a fine up to \$750,000. Her sentence will be determined according to the United States Sentencing Guidelines. A sentencing hearing will be scheduled after the completion of a presentence investigation by the United States Probation Office.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney John E. Cowles. It was

investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department and the U.S. Postal Inspection Service.

\*\*\*\*\*

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

[www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow)